

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4 line 29 as follows:

The identity private key is used to produce digital signatures that are required by root entity 110 as evidence of an entity's contractual commitment to the contents of an electronic transaction, such as a purchase order or a warranty request such as the warranty request described in U.S. provisional patent application serial No. 60/224,994, filed August 14, 2000, entitled Signing Interface Requirements, Smart Card Compliance Requirements, Warranty Service Functional Requirements, and Additional Disclosure; and U.S. patent application serial No. 09/928,998, filed August 14, 2001, entitled System and Method for Providing Warranties in Electronic Commerce, both of which patent applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5 line 22 as follows:

In a preferred embodiment, subscribing customer 106 may also be provided with a signing interface (not shown). A preferred signing interface is described in U.S. provisional patent application serial No. 60/224,994, filed August 14, 2000, entitled Signing Interface Requirements, Smart Card Compliance Requirements, Warranty Service Functional Requirements, and Additional Disclosure; and U.S. patent application serial No. 09/929,035, filed August 14, 2001, entitled System and Method for Facilitating Signing by Buyers in Electronic Commerce, both of which patent applications are hereby incorporated by reference. As described in that those applications, the signing interface provides a mechanism by which a seller's Web applications may invoke the buyer's smartcard subsystem or other signing module to execute a digital signature.